



## small white lady slipper

*Cypripedium candidum*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### Features

Small white lady slipper is a perennial herb that grows in clumps of up to 50 or more blooming and vegetative, hairy stems. The stems grow from horizontal rhizomes and are up to 16 inches tall. There are two to four folded leaves up to six inches long and one to 2 1/2 inches wide. A blooming stem has one, rarely two, white flowers with violet veins on the inside. The flowers are up to one inch long.

### Natural History

Small white lady slipper grows in moist and wet prairies, wet meadows, and fens. It flowers in May and June. Historically, this orchid may have occurred in every county in the state. It is now uncommon in Iowa due to loss of habitat. It is found primarily in the north half of the state in scattered locations.

### Habitats

wet prairies and fens

### Iowa Status

uncommon, native

### Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.